(CACP), the views of the State Government and Central Ministries as well as such other relevant factors considered important for fixation of support prices. Keeping in view the drought last year, the Government had announced the special drought relief prices ranging from Rs.5/- to Rs.20/- per quintal over and above the MSP for different kharif and rabi crops of 2002-03 season.

(c) and (d) In case the Government announces bonus apart from MSP, it is payable to the farmers selling their produce to the designated Central and State Agencies.

Shortage of seeds in drought hit States

574. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers in drought hit areas of Andhra Pradedsh and other States this year suffered from acute shortage of seeds and supply of spurious seeds for the next crop besides problems of credit and the like;

(b) whether some of the agitating farmers had lost their lives if so, how many had lost their lives or were injured in firing; and

(c) what steps have been taken to come to the rescue of the farmers, by providing adequate and proper inputs for next crops, especially in the drought hit areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV):(a) The overall availability of certified/quality seeds for Kharif-2003 has been assessed at 60.69 lakh quintals against the requirement of 44.52 lakh quintals. The details of crop-wise requirement and availability of certified/quality seeds for Kharif-2003 is enclosed in Statement-I. (*See* below) Relief measures extended to the farmers are given in the Statement-II.(*See* below)

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Funds have been provided for agriculture in put assistance to the farmers in the drought affected areas.

Statement-I

The details of crop-wise requirement and availability of certified/ quality seed for Kharif-2003

(Quantity in Quintals)

Sl.No.	Crop	Requirement	Availability	Shortage/Excess
1.	Paddy	18,72,089	23,56,483	+4,84,394
2.	Jowar	1,79,465	2,60,657	+81,192
3.	Bajra	1,77,518	2,49,005	+71,487
4.	Maize	2,41,555	8,74,406	+6,32,851
5.	Ragi	22,700	25,485	+2,785
6.	Arhar	79,684	77,842	-1,842*
7.	Moong	72,119	78,193	+6,074
8.	Blackgram (Urad)	96,959	1,32,418	+35,459
9.	Groundnut	6,76,420	6,24,911	-51,509*
10.	Castor	41,000	42,802	+1,802
11.	Sesamum (Til)	9,288	13,076	+3,788
12.	Sunflower	28,366	38,416	+10,050
13.	Soyabean	6,74,816	9,50,651	+2,75,835
14.	Cotton	2,36,769	3,02,618	+65,849
15.	Jute	21,543	21,543	
16.	Mesta	185	185	

* For Groundnut seed shortage in Gujarat and Karnataka the State Government had informed that they have planned to procure Groundnut Seed from summer production programme and meet the demand. States facing shortage of Arhar seeds have been advised to procure the same from States/State Seed Corporations having surplus seeds.

Statement-II

Relief measures extended to the farmers affected by drought

There will be recovery of any amount either by way of principal or interest during the current financial year in respect of Kharif 2002 crop loan.

The principal amount of crop loan will be converted into term loan and will be recovered over a period of minimum five years in case of small and marginal farmers and four years in the case of other farmers.

The first year's deferred liability of interest on Kharif-2002 crop loan will be waived completely.

Based on the announcement made by the Government of India, the Banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to defer the interest due on the Kharif-2002 crop loans in such a way that the first instalment of interest repayment would be 20% of the deferred interest. This instalment of deferred interest which is to be waived by Banks, will be reimbursed by Government of India in the case of all farmers. The banks have also been advised not to charge any interest on the deferred interest.

Supplying improved seeds

575. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bad quality of seeds is responsible for low production of edible oils, vegetables, fruits, fodder and feed crops;

(b) if so, how far low production is responsible for increased import edible oils; and

(c) what effective steps are being taken to supply improved quality of seeds and to spread genetic and legal knowledge in rural and tribal areas to boost production of quality seeds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) It will not be correct to generalize that there is an overall decline in productivity in the relevant items. In any case, the level of agricultural production depends on a large number of factors such as production technology, quality of inputs, irrigation, weather conditions, disease and pests and cost of credit etc.

(b) The increase import of edible oil is attributable to several factors including tariff structure, global competition and the prevailing international rates etc.

(c) Supply of quality seeds and dissemination of relevant information is an integral part of many schemes of the Ministry mention may, in particular, be invited to the following:

(i) Oilseeds production programme.

(ii) Macro Management of agriculture through state work plan.